

save souls for Christ. I once said that I had no influence and really believed that I was right. There came a Temperance lecturer to the little town in which I lived. He was one of the Francis Murphy's school, and he it was that organized a Murphy Temperance Society in Andrews, for this is the name of the little town in which I then resided. So as I said, there was a Temperance Society started and I was invited to don the blue ribbon. I told them no, that I had no influence and would not sign the pledge nor wear the ribbon. So through mere curiosity I went to the temperance meeting one night, and found a man there who had killed a man, due, no doubt, either directly or indirectly to alcohol, and he said to me, Will, if you will go with me I will go up and take the pledge. I saw at a glance where I had an influence for good, and so made the best of it. And I believe firmly that, that man was saved from the saloon by my influence, for I do not think that he has frequented a saloon since, and that was eighteen years ago. So you see that when we least expect it, we can do some one good, if we but will.

Our every action, our walk, and talk, is having some influence if we did but know it. We ought to be very careful about what we say and do, for we as professors of christianity can do much in our business relations, in our every day conversation and our every act toward bringing people into the fold of Christ. We ought to be very careful then how we live. I believe that there are more infidels made by the members of the churches of to-day than by all the Paynes, Ingersols and Voltairs that ever lived, and why, just because there are thousands of so called Christians that use the church as a cloak to hide their deeds under, that are wolves in sheep clothing. And when we view the fact that we have a discriminating public to deal with, who watches our every act and deed, we ought to watch ourselves that we do not cause some one else to stumble and fall.

These, my dear brethren, are serious matters for our consideration. Oh how careful we ought to be that our influence may do some good and in this way add one more star to our crown. Of a general, his men said that his presence on the fields of battle was worth ten thousand men. He did not possess the strength of ten thousand men, but he had the influence or power of adding the strength of ten thousand men to the thousands he led into battle; and this power or influence is not in the possession of one in a generation but in the possession of all, if we only use it for good.

I read the EVANGELIST, and such able writers as Brothers Shively, McFaden, Gnagey and others of which I might mention a score or more; and sisters as well, who are able writers, who are calculated to do a vast amount of good if their influence could only be scattered abroad. I would to God that the EVANGELIST could be in every family in the United States. It is sowing seed of good that will grow and bring forth fruit many days hence. Could there not be some way arranged that the EVANGELIST might be spread around more than it is? Say that we would set apart fifty cents a year, of our membership, that is, say that each member of the Brethren church would send to the EVANGELIST fifty cents each year to be used to pay for the paper to go to those who are not able to buy and pay for the paper, very much good would result from a work of this kind. Let us try this a while, Brethren, and see what we can do toward advancing the cause of Christ. I am willing to do my part.

Marion, Ind.

PREPARING TO GO HOME.

KATIE J. VANDERREE.

There are no preparations which we poor mortals might make that are more pleasant and cheerful than those we make for returning home, however humble that may be, whether it is a poor man's cottage or rich man's palace; and after an absence during which the heart grows fonder, we return again with a light heart, and a smiling countenance to the place where we left our loved ones, and while on our homeward journey expectation of welcome crowd every hour while we are away from home.

We are wont to speak of these seasons as pleasant thoughts through life. Thus, does the weary Christian feel, seeking his Father's home in the skies, and while old age is coming on him and his race comes to an end, he stands at the riversbrink, his heart is surcharged with the expectation of soon meeting with the loved ones gone before. His heart is full of joy when he feels the mortal cables loosening and finds himself drifting out into the ocean of eternity and immortality. Where arises to his view the shore upon which appears the Rock of Ages and the battlements of the heavenly home. Thus will it be if Christ is your first selection and yours his kind protection till life is done.

Then shall you arise,
All earthly hopes releasing
Where joys are still increasing
In Paradise.

Cornell, Ill.

A FEW WORDS TO PARENTS.

J. J. VANDERREE.

Way back in the long ago it was said by one of authority, "Be ye fruitful and multiply." This meant that there were to be fathers, mothers, and children. Now, when the children appeared there also sprung up a responsibility from parents to their children, for these little innocent ones know nothing, and are absolutely helpless. So they must be taken care of in a proper manner, or else they must suffer, and as a matter of course when a child suffers a parent suffers also. Taking care of the child is not enough. They must receive instructions, and that too, must be in a proper manner, and at a proper time. As soon as a child begins to understand, they must be taught. This every body will admit, for if they are not taught how will they know.

The good Book tells us they should be raised up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. By who? By the fathers. But are the mothers excused from this command? No indeed, for if she is anything in the home she is a helpmeet. Yea, in a godly sense they are, or (should be) one. They should stand together as one in the rearing up of their families. But how often do we find it the case that the father and the mother are divided on this very question. If either one of the parents will deviate from this, how soon will the child find this out. And once having found this out it lays down a bad precedence, for a child is bound to take advantage of this to his or her own heart.

It is indeed too often the case that a child is left to grow up in a way which is not good, and are left without the proper instructions, and are allowed to travel as fast as time and their little feet can carry them unto ruin. And the parents are in no wise alarmed until the time comes when a halt must be made either for society's sake or the sake of the eternal welfare of the child. But what then? The cry goes out to others, Oh, save my child. And many an anxious, Christian parent has stood and looked on while strangers were rescuing their children. We, many times allow our children to go in bad company, even when we know it, but we labor under the false belief that they will come out all right. It is certainly better to keep them in a way that is good. Children, as a rule, have many teachers, both good and bad, and the few hours that we parents are with our children, is only a small percentage of the time that they receive instructions. Oh, if fathers would properly instruct their boys "especially" how many a child would be saved many ills and much suffering afterward